

Bronwyn Fox

Keshi [kay-SHE]: The Zuni Connection, the small store tucked next to the parking lot on Don Gaspar, could possibly be overlooked if not for co-owner Bronwyn Fox's passion for drawing attention to it. Fox, a New Mexico native who grew up at Zuni Pueblo, nearly didn't end up in Santa Fe at all, but was instead considering spots much further west—specifically the Northwest coast. Fox left New Mexico to go to school in Washington state, but, she admits, “I was thinking when I was living there [Washington] about Native issues, Native community, Native art, and feeling like I was going to find a place to work in Lumley, or that area; but this store [Keshi] was here, and my mother [co-owner Robin Dunlap] was at a transitional place where she was wanting to step back. . . . I just feel like the luckiest person in the world to do this. It was in my own backyard all along.”

In 2016, Fox and Dunlap took Keshi from its modest beginnings as a cooperative in 1982 to the forefront of Native art with the first ever Zuni show at the Scottish Rite Center during Santa Fe's annual Indian Market last August. “The turnout was phenomenal; we had so many volunteers from the Santa Fe community,” she says, grinning broadly. “It was kind of a happening,” she adds. Fox has a lot in store for the future of Keshi—the Keshi Foundation, more Zuni shows, and perhaps creating a tool bank for Zuni artists. The mission of the store, she continues, is to support living artists, as well as to educate every person who walks through Keshi's door. “We are revealing the value in the work by educating,” Fox confirms.

“Go visit Zuni,” she implores. “Zuni is the most unique, welcoming community.” Aside from her obvious heartfelt passion for Zuni and its artists, she has this to say about Santa Fe: “I feel really lucky to live here. It feeds me—spiritually, physically—in every way.”—*Amanda Jackson*